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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10

/061 W
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R 250745Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 919
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USUNMISSION NEW YORK 1583
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR KS KN
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK'S KOREAN WAR ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT

1. PRESIDENT PAK, IN SPECIAL STATEMENT ISSUED JUNE 24 ON EVE OF TWENTY-FIFTY ANNIVERSARY OF OUTBREAK OF KOREAN WAY, WARNED NORTH KOREA AGAINST ANOTHER INVASION AND URGED THE NORTH ONCE AGAIN TO SIGN A NONAGGRESSION ACCORD WITH SOUTH.

2. PAK'S STATEMENT REVIEWED RECENT EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED NORTH KOREAN WAR PREPARATIONS AND INCLUDED CURRENT ROKG LINE THAT NORTH IS ENGAGING IN DECEPTIVE PEACE OFFENSIVE BEHIND WHICH IT IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A SECOND KOREAN WAR. PAK SAID THAT PYONGYANG'S DISGUISED PEACE PROPAGANDA, INCLUDING ATTEMPTS TO SHIFT BLAME FOR KOREAN WAR TO OUR SIDE, IS NO DIFFERENT FROM EARLIER SCHEMES TO MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME AND ABROAD, JKST AS NORTH DID IN PROFFERING "PEACE NEGOTIATIONS" PRIOR TO 1950 INVASION. HOWEVER, ROK PREPAREDNESS AND UNITY ARE STRONGER THAN EVER, PAK ARGUED, SO THAT IF NORTH KOREANS
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DO LAUNCH AN INVASION, THEY WILL "BE DIGGING THEIR OWN GRAVES AND CHOOSING A PATH TO SELF-DESTRUCTION". FOR THIS REASON, PAK SAID, "I URGE THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS TO GIVE UP IMMEDIATELY THEIR DELUSIONS

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ABOUT ACHIEVING UNIFICATION BY FORCE OF ARMS AND
ACCEPT PROMPTLY THE SOUTH-NORTH MUTUAL NONAGGRESSION
AGREEMENT WE HAVE PROPOSED". PAK ALSO CALLED ON
NORTH TO DESTROY THE DMZ TUNNELS AS EVIDENCE OF GOOD
FAITH TO ABIDE BY ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.

3. PRESIDENT ALSO TOUCHED ON THEME THAT NAIONAL
STRENGTH IS KEY TO THWARTING NORTHERN INVASION.
"IN THE FACE OF THIS CHALLENGE," HE SAID,"THERE
CAN BE NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN RULING AND
OPPOSITIN PARTIES, NOR BETWEEN SECTS ANFWSTRATA."
HE ADDED CRYPITCALLY THAT "THE MORE ARDENTLY
WE ASPIRE FOR SURVIVAL, PEACE, FREEDOM, AND
PROSPERITY, THE GREATER WILL BE OUR SACRIFICE IN CULTI-
VATING OUR NATIOANL STRENGTH."

4. COMMENT: PAK'S STATEMENT COVERED NO NEW GROUND
BUT WAS TIMELY REITERATION OF CURRENT ROKG VIEW OF
KOREAN SITUATION. PRESS TREATED IT AS SUCH,
ACCORDING IT TOP COVERAGE JUNE 25 AMONG COLLECTION
OF STORIES RELATED TO RATHER QUIET OBSERVANCE OF WAR
ANNIVERSARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, NONAGGRESSION AGREEMENTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL04596
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750220-0389
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506103/baaaaumu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, (PARK CHUNG HEE)
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
USUNMISSION N Y
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006